



**December
2020**

Washington D.C. After 3PM



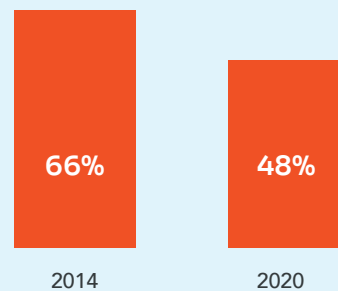
For years, afterschool programs have kept kids safe, inspired them to learn, and offered parents peace of mind that their children are constructively engaged in the hours between the end of the school day and when parents return from work.

Yet, in Washington D.C., America After 3PM found that **for every child in an afterschool program, 1 is waiting** to get in, with **11,540 children** alone and unsupervised after school.

The number of students left without afterschool in Washington D.C. remains high

There are now 31,515 children (48%) in Washington D.C. who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them.

Unmet demand for afterschool programs by year





Washington D.C. children who are fortunate enough to take part in afterschool programs are receiving critical supports

95% of Washington D.C. parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program. Washington D.C. children in afterschool programs are:

	Building life skills	88%
	Getting help with homework	77%
	Engaging in STEM or computer science learning opportunities	88%

	Taking part in physical activities	86%
	Receiving healthy snacks or meals	88%
	Interacting with peers and building social skills	95%

Additionally, Washington D.C. parents report high levels of satisfaction with supports in their child's afterschool program, including:

	A safe environment	88%
	Knowledgeable and caring staff	94%



Moreover, Washington D.C. parents report that afterschool programs are a lifeline for working families:

84%

of parents with a child in an afterschool program agree that the program helps them keep their job or work more hours

90%

of parents overall agree that afterschool programs provide working parents peace of mind

21,157

Number of children in afterschool programs

6.5 hours

Average hours per week children spend in an afterschool program

4.1 days

Average days per week children spend in an afterschool program

\$167.10

Average weekly cost of afterschool programs*

**Among parents who report that they pay a fee for their child's afterschool program*

24%

Percentage of children in afterschool who are from low-income households

78%

Percentage of afterschool programs located in a public school building

Afterschool in Washington D.C.



Cost and access top the list of roadblocks to afterschool program participation

A significant percentage of parents in Washington D.C. report challenges to enrolling their child in an afterschool program, for example, **7 in 10** parents said that the lack of a safe way for their child to get to and come home from programs was an important factor in their decision not to enroll their child in a program.

% of parents reporting they did not enroll their child in an afterschool program because of the following:

Lack of available programs



Programs are too expensive

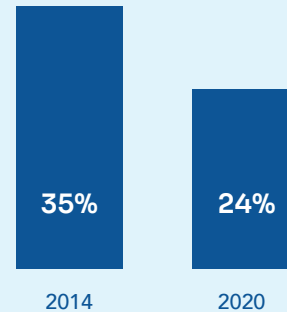


No safe way for their child to get to and from programs



As high levels of parents reported barriers to participation, afterschool program participation in Washington D.C. saw a decrease compared to the last America After 3PM survey in 2014.

Afterschool program participation by year



There is significant bipartisan support for greater investment in afterschool

To help ensure that all children in Washington D.C. who want to participate in an afterschool program are able, greater investment in afterschool is needed. Support for public funding for afterschool programs in Washington D.C. is high, with **89% of parents in favor of funding** for programs that provide afterschool opportunities.

In the face of the ongoing pandemic, parents nationally continue to see afterschool programs as a resource to promote their child's growth and development while also helping parents maintain or find employment. In an October 2020 national survey of parents, **77%** agreed that Congress should provide additional funding for afterschool programs to operate during virtual school days.

Strong support for public funding across the political spectrum

Democrats



Independents



Republicans



About the survey

America After 3PM is a national survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, screening 31,055 households and having 14,393 households completing in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and Washington D.C., between January 27 and March 17, 2020. Where the minimum could not be met, supplemental telephone interviews were conducted. Data were collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. The percentages and projected numbers in America After 3PM are based on survey responses from parents. In Washington D.C., 227 households and 135 children were screened for this study. Child-level statewide projections and total school enrollment numbers are based on 2018-2019 Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Total school enrollment for Washington D.C. is 86,550.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>.

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